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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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October 22, 1992

\* NOT ADMITTED TO FLORIDA BAR

> Ms. Donna R. Searcy, Secretary Federal Communications Commission Washington, D.C. 20554

MM Docket No. <u>9</u>2-203 FM Table of Allotments

Indiantown and Okeechobee, Florida

Our File No. 61010

Dear Ms. Searcy:

On behalf of Okeechobee Broadcasters, Inc., licensee of station WOKC-FM, Okeechobee, Florida, enclosed please find an original and four copies of comments on the Notice of Proposed Rule Making in the above-referenced proceeding

If any additional information is desired, please communicate with the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

John M. Spencer Counsel for

Okeechobee Broadcasters, Inc.

Encls. (5)

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

# BEFORE THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C.

In the Matter of	}
Amendment of Rule 73.202(b) Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Indiantown, Florida)	) MM Docket No. 92-203 ) RM-8057

TO: Chief, Allocations Branch

### COMMENTS

- 1. By Notice of Proposed Rule Making in the above-captioned proceeding, 7 FCC Rcd 5624 (1992), the Commission gave notice of a proposal by Okeechobee Broadcasters, Inc. ("Broadcasters") to reallot channel 276C2 from Okeechobee, Florida, to Indiantown, Florida, and to modify the license of Broadcasters' station WOKC-FM accordingly. Broadcasters, by its attorney and pursuant to Rules 1.415 and 1.420, hereby comments in support of its proposal.
- 2. Reference point. In an effort to simplify consideration of its proposal, Broadcasters originally proposed to carry forward the same reference point specified for its class C2 allotment at Okeechobee. However, petitioner has subsequently learned that this location entails a slight conflict with pending applications of stations WLOQ, Winter Park, Florida (FCC File No. BPH-920527IE),

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See Report and Order in MM Docket No. 89-434, 7 FCC Rcd 1970 (1992).

and WSGL, Naples, Florida (BPH-920527IG).

3. Since it was never Broadcasters' intention to create such conflicts, petitioner hereby amends its proposal to specify a new reference point that eliminates these conflicts, namely:

North latitude 27° 11' 55" West longitude 80° 21' 37"

- 4. As discussed in the attached Engineering Exhibit of James M. Johnson, these reference coordinates satisfy all separations required by Rule 73.207, including in particular those relating to the proposals of WLOQ and WSGL, and would also afford 70 dBu service to all of Indiantown, as required by Rule 73.315(a).<sup>2</sup>
- 5. <u>Section 307(b)</u>. Broadcasters' petition for rule making demonstrated Indiantown's status as a community deserving its own local transmission service. Petitioner wishes to take this opportunity to comment further on the impact of its proposal on the fair and equitable distribution of radio service mandated by Section 307(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.
- 6. First, Indiantown is not merely a suburban bedroom community for some nearby urban center. To the contrary, it is a relatively isolated rural community whose economy is based largely

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> This slight change does not alter Broadcasters' pending application for construction permit, BPH-920527IH, which also complies with all applicable station assignment criteria for a station that would be licensed to Indiantown.

on providing a wide range of services and activities for the surrounding agricultural areas. To illustrate Indiantown's isolation, this table shows the distances to the nearest communities with local radio stations:

	Distance	
<u>Community</u>	<u>(km)</u>	<u>Direction</u>
Stuart	27	Northeast
Jupiter	36	Southeast
Belle Glade	41	Southwest
Okeechobee	44	Northwest

- 7. As of the 1990 Census, Okeechobee and Indiantown were approximately equal-sized communities well outside Urbanized Areas. Extrapolating their 1980-1990 growth rates, Indiantown would have surpassed Okeechobee in population by early 1992. Yet despite the similar need for local broadcast service, Okeechobee has three stations, while Indiantown presently has none. The proposed reallotment will tend to correct this imbalance by moving one station (WOKC-FM) to Indiantown while leaving two (WOKC(AM) and WWFR(FM)) at Okeechobee.
- 8. Further, the proposed reallotment will accommodate changes in population distribution patterns that have occurred since WOKC-FM's channel was first allotted to Okeechobee in 1963,4 when

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Approximately 1.5 percent annually for Okeechobee and 4.5 percent annually for Indiantown.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> <u>See Third Report, Memorandum Opinion and Order</u> in Docket No. 14185, 40 FCC 747 (1963).

Indiantown was less than half the size of Okeechobee. Such flexibility in the FM Table of Allotments is particularly important in a fast-growing state like Florida, where allotment decisions made 30 years ago can easily be outpaced by population growth.<sup>5</sup>

- 9. Finally, the proposed reallotment will foster Broadcasters' ability to succeed as a business by broadening its home base of audience and advertising from one community to two (since WOKC(AM) will remain licensed to Okeechobee). This in turn will best ensure licensee's continued ability to meet the program needs of its service area.
- 10. For all the above reasons, the reallotment of WOKC-FM from Okeechobee to Indiantown clearly serves the public interest objectives of Section 307(b).
- 11. <u>Continued interest</u>. Broadcasters hereby reaffirms its interest in this proposal, and its intention to promptly file an appropriate application<sup>6</sup> to implement the change upon its effectiveness.
  - 12. <u>Conclusion</u>. Accordingly, Broadcasters asks the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> As here, the option of allotting new channels is frequently not available, given the constraints of existing allotments and Rule 73.207. Moreover, the experience of Docket 90-90 has taught that new channels may cause more harm than good. In any event, here a reallotment can satisfy the changing need for local service.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Or an amendment to BPH-920527IH if still pending at the time.

Commission to act promptly to reallot FM channel 276C2 from Okeechobee, Florida, to Indiantown, Florida; and to modify the license for WOKC-FM to specify operation on channel 276C2 at Indiantown, Florida.

Respectfully submitted,

OKEECHOBEE BROADCASTERS, INC.

By:\

John M. Spencer

Its Counsel

Leibowitz & Spencer One S.E. Third Avenue, Suite 1450 Miami, Florida 33131 (305) 530-1322

October 22, 1992

# ENGINEERING EXHIBIT AMENDMENT TO PROPOSED RULEMAKING OKEECHOBEE BROADCASTERS, INC. RADIO STATION WOKC-FM INDIANTOWN, FLORIDA

HAS: CHANNEL 276-C2, OKEECHOBEE, FL.

REQ: CHANNEL 276-C2, INDIANTOWN, FL.

OCTOBER, 1992

EXHIBIT "EE"

# ENGINEERING EXHIBIT PROPOSED RULEMAKING OKEECHOBEE BROADCASTERS, INC. INDIANTOWN, FLORIDA

The Engineering Data contained herein, has been prepared on behalf of Okeechobee Broadcasters, Inc., licensee of WOKC-FM, Okeechobee, Florida, in support of a suppliment to a Petition for Rulemaking to change the City of License to Indiantown, Florida and modify the license of WOKC-FM to reflect that change.

This amendment is supplied in order to clear the short spacing that exists to proposed applications of WSGL, Naples, Florida and WLOQ, Winter Park, Florida.

Studies were conducted and it was determined that the amended reference site as well as the site used in the upgrade application both provide Indiantown with the required 70 dBu contour. Specifically, the amended reference coordinates are:

N. Lat: 27-11-55

W. Lon: 80-21-37

Exhibit 1 is a tabulation which shows the required separtions from the amended Indiantown Class "C2" reference location.

The proposed WOKC-FM assignment is mutually exclusive with the current WOKC-FM assignment.

# JAMES M. JOHNSON & ASSOCIATES 3750 US 27 NORTH SEBRING FL 33870

### **EXHIBIT 1**

# WOKC-FM PROPOSED NEW RM SITE FOR INDIANTOWN, FL

REFERENCE 27 11 55 N 80 21 37 W			Current CHANNEL	rule				DATA	LAY DATES 09-30-9 H 10-14-9	2
CALL	CH#	CITY			STATE	BEAR'	D-KM	R-KM	MARGIN	
	276C2 276C2 276C2 276A 279C2 276C3	Okeechok Okeechok Vero Bea Naples Winter F	own bee bee ach Park	·	FL FL FL FL FL FL FL	276.2 276.2 276.2 277.6 272.4 350.8 228.7 324.3 226.3 323.1	16.98 16.98 17.50 46.73 60.21 180.25	166.0 58.0	-173.02 = -173.02 = -172.50 = -119.27 = 2.21 = 3.25 = 6.07 = 10.69	* * * *
WSGL WLOQ WSHE WMXJ DE277	276A 276A 276A 278C 274C 277C	Naples Winter P Fort Lau Pompano Bradento	ark derdale Beach		FL FL FL FL FL	228.8 327.1 173.7 173.7 279.9	180.25 186.18 137.35 137.35 222.39	166.0 166.0	14.25 20.18 32.35	

#### AFFIDAVIT

State	of	Florid	ia 💮	)	
				)	SS
County	of	Palm	Beach	)	

James M. Johnson, having been duly sworn, deposes and says that:

- 1. He is a Broadcasting Consultant practicing in the City of Sebring, Florida, and his qualifications are a matter of record with the Federal Communications Commission.
- 2. He has been retained by Okeechobee Broadcasters, Inc., to prepare the attached Engineering Exhibit.
- 3. He has prepared, or caused to be prepared under his immediate supervision, the accompanying exhibits which are attached to and form part of this affidavit.
- 4. The foregoing statements and the aforementioned exhibits are true to the best of his knowledge and belief.

James M. Johnson

Subscribed and sworn to this

day of October, 1992.

Notary Public

CHERYL A HEATN

NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF FLORIDA. MY COMMISSION EXPIRES: Sept. 11, 1995. BONDED THRU NOTARY PUBLIC UNDERWRITERS,

### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, John M. Spencer, hereby certify that a copy of the attached Comments in MM Docket No. 92-203 were this 22nd day of October, 1992, sent to the following persons by First Class U.S. Mail, in fulfillment of the requirements of Rules 1.47 and 1.420:

Sterling Communications Corp. 368 Goodlette Rd. S. 522 Naples, Florida 33941

Donald E. Ward, Esq.
Post Office Box 286
Washington, D.C. 20044
Counsel for Sterling Communications Corp.

Gross Communications Corp. 170 West Faribanks Avenue Winter Park, Florida 32789

John F. Garziglia, Esq.
Pepper & Corazzini
1776 K St., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
Counsel for Gross Communications Corp.